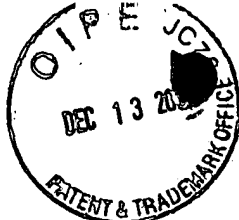


SON-2043



PATENT APPLICATION

#7
12/18/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Patent Application of

Shuzo SATO et al.

Examiner: Charlotte Brown

Serial No. 09/800,580

Group Art Unit: 1765

Filed: March 8, 2001

For: METHODS OF PRODUCING AND
POLISHING SEMICONDUCTOR
DEVICE AND POLISHING
APPARATUS

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF INVENTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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TC 1700 MAIL ROOM

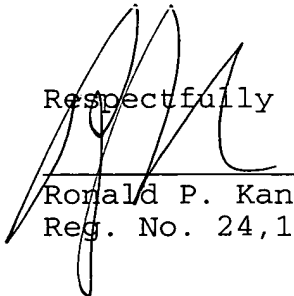
In full and timely response to the election of invention requirement in the Office Action dated November 4, 2002, for which three months were allotted for reply, the Applicant, through its representatives and attorneys, respectfully elects with traverse the invention of Group I, having claims 1 to 52, drawn to a method for producing a semiconductor device. Please hold the non-elected invention of Group II, having claims 53 to 111 in abeyance, pending rejoinder or submission in a divisional application.

This election is made with traverse to preserve the right to petition this finding, for if allowable claims drawn to the elected method are presented, corresponding apparatus claims having substantially a coextensive scope should also be allowable. Contrast MPEP 821.04 with the reverse situation.

Early examination on the elected invention is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 13, 2002



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